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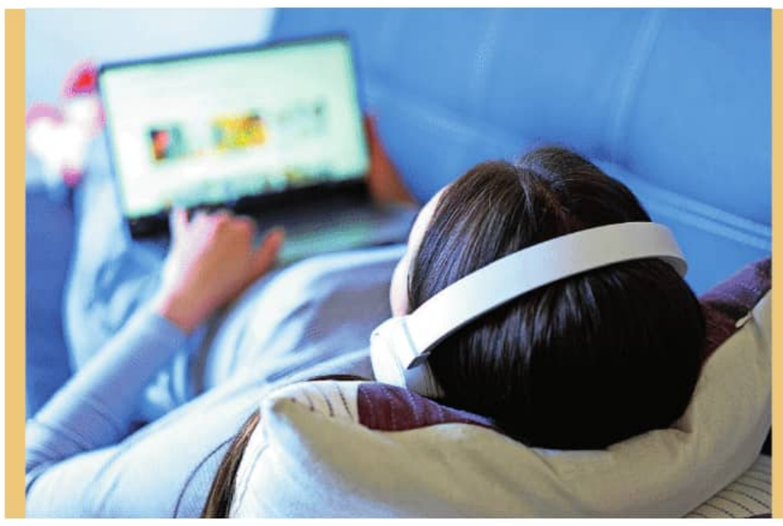
Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 32 | Min 19 | Humidity 35% Partly sunny Sensex 75,502 | Nifty 23,408 | Gold 1,55,804 | Silver 2,57,012 | Dollar 92.27 | Euro 106.04 | GBP 122.76



VICE DEVICE

Survey reveals parents' worry over social media impact as kids aged between 9-17 report rising anxiety, sleep disturbances, anger issues

PAGE 5

REFILL RUSH

In time of scarcity, it is ironic that 2 lakh+ families in state who were given LPG connections never refilled cylinders even once

PAGE 7

Public recruitment on hold awaiting High Court order and non-availability of eligible candidates are reasons cited by state pollution board for its staff shortage crisis, but 65% vacancy is bad news for crucial department

NO HANDS TO PULL US OUT OF POLLUTION PICKLE

This may explain gaps in pollution mitigation in city, say experts

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The acute staff shortage in the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) has worsened over the last four years. A 2021 performance audit by the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) found that more than 56% of sanctioned posts for technical and non-technical staff at the state pollution control board were vacant. Currently, nearly 65% of positions remain unoccupied.

In 2021, while KSPCB had 682 sanctioned posts, 385 were vacant, and only 297 posts were occupied.

However, as of November 2025, while the total sanctioned posts in KSPCB are 723, only 255 are occupied, leaving a whopping 468 positions vacant.

The only other state pollution control boards with higher vacancy than KSPCB are Madhya Pradesh (66.72%), Manipur (66.38%), Odisha (61.12%), Bihar (93.06%), Jharkhand (91.14%), and Uttarakhand (77.67%).

This has been highlighted by CPCB in a report filed with the National Green Tribunal recently.

Public recruitment on hold pending High Court order, and the non-availability of eligible candidates are reasons cited by KSPCB for the high vacancy.

In November 2025, the Karnataka High Court prevented the state government from implementing an increase in reservation under the Karnataka Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes (Reservation of seats in Educational Institutions and of Appointments or posts in the services under the State) Act, 2022. All recruitments are thus on hold till further orders.

Environmentalists and civic activists say the acute staff crunch is probably the main reason behind the poor

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

"Bengaluru is reeling under irresponsible and unscientific disposal of various hazardous wastes, including biomedical waste. There are hardly any concrete actions taken by KSPCB in these matters. The board is also expected to spread awareness about waste management —Environmentalist

Little fires everywhere

Yet another incident of dry leaves being set ablaze reported; trees on Devasandra Lake premises damaged

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Accidental or intentional fires as heaps of dried leaves and waste are set ablaze have become common during summer in various parts of the city. Public spaces such as parks, lakes, and even university campuses have become vulnerable to fire mishaps. Even civic workers have been accused of setting garbage on fire on the outskirts of Bengaluru.

Many well-grown trees along the walking path of Devasandra Lake were damaged when heaps of dry leaves were set on fire on Sunday. Residents of Devasandra and lake activists have expressed concern over the poor maintenance of the lake. They demanded the authorities take preventive measures to avoid fire mishaps during the summer.

"Fortunately, several well-grown trees were saved from being burnt up in the blaze. A similar incident had taken place last summer too. However, the authorities remain apathetic about clearing dry leaves on the lake bed and to compost them,"

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8 »

THINGS TO DO

01 Nature intertwined

Kapila Nahender presents Pockets of Resistance, a new body of work that examines the subtle yet powerful ways in which nature continues to exist within the dense fabric of contemporary cities through a series of layered oil paintings.
Where: Venkatappa Art Gallery;
When: March 20 to 29, 11 am to 6 pm

02 Little lizard's journey

Ranga Shankara is presenting 'Chippi, The Chipkali', a puppet play featuring the tale of a baby lizard who loses its tail and is mocked by others, as part of Take a Child to the Theatre 2026 campaign.
Where: Ranga Shankara, JP Nagar;
When: March 20, 7.30 pm

03 Urban escape

Hosachiguru Farm Showcase, a three-day event, brings the concept of farm and farmhouse living to urban audiences. Visitors can explore how managed farms can offer city residents a weekend retreat and a closer connection with nature.
Where: Hosachiguru Corporate Office, Jayanagar;
When: March 20, 21, 22

04 Tradition remixed

Indofuzon presents Baithak 2.0, an evening that blends contemporary fusion with classical and folk influences, bringing together powerful vocals and rich instrumentation for an immersive live music experience.
Where: Indian Craft Brewery (ICB), Nagawara;
When: March 21, 8 pm

05 Futuristic art

The 9th edition of the Whitefield Art Collective (WAC) is being held under the theme 'Tomorrow, Altered!', featuring over 300 works across fine art, sculptures, installations, photography exhibitions, and curated artist showcases.
Where: VR Bengaluru, Whitefield Main Road;
When: Until April 12

Typhoid burden in K'taka remains alarmingly high

With over 42,000 cases recorded in 2023, state ranks among those with highest typhoid incidence; experts attribute poor infrastructure and consumption of untreated water as causes

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Typhoid cases in Karnataka remain among the highest in the country, with the state reporting 42,096 cases in 2023, according to data submitted in Parliament and sourced from the Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP).

The figures place Karnataka among the top states with the largest typhoid burden, with only a few states reporting higher numbers. According to the data, Maharashtra recorded the highest number of cases at 46,673, followed by Karnataka and then Chhattisgarh with 39,536, and Andhra Pradesh with 38,747 cases. The data was released in February.

The data, compiled through the IDSP's L-form reporting system, shows that India reported a total of 5,74,136 typhoid cases in 2023 across states and Union Territories. Other states with significant case numbers include Uttar Pradesh with 40,375 cases, Rajasthan with 41,269, and Bihar with 33,269 cases.

Within the southern region, Karnataka reported far higher numbers compared with neighbouring states. Tamil Nadu reported 29,920 cases, while Telangana recorded 20,730 cases, and Kerala reported 1,740 cases.

Public health experts note that typhoid, a bacterial infection which typically spreads through contaminated food and water, remains a major concern in densely populated urban areas and regions facing sanitation challenges.

Typhoid remains a major concern in densely populated urban areas and regions facing sanitation challenges

There has been rise in drug-resistant strains, making standard treatments less effective, leading to longer recovery times and higher 'active' case count, says doctor

In a question that was asked regarding whether the government has taken cognisance of the findings of a study published in the Lancet Regional Health estimating approximately 49 lakh cases of typhoid fever and over 7,800 deaths in the country during the year 2023, Ministry of Health and Family Welfare responded, "The said study is a modelling study on the burden of typhoid fever and antimicrobial resistance (AMR) in India in 2023, integrating typhoid fever incidence data from the Surveillance for Enteric Fever in India (SEFI) study (from 2017-2020 among children aged 6 months to 14 years in India), Global Burden of Disease Study 2021, and state-specific AMR prevalence data from systematic reviews (including the 2024 systematic review preprint on typhoid antimicrobial resistance conducted by the same authors)." It said that this modelling study aims to estimate the typhoid burden in India in 2023, categorised by age, state, and AMR profile. "It is funded by the Nagasaki University World-leading Innovative & Smart Education (WISE) Programme, Vaccine Impact Modelling Consortium, and Japan Agency for Medical Research and Development. This study has not been conducted or funded by the Government of India," said the Ministry.

Dr M Ravi Kumar, Senior Consultant - Internal Medicine, Sakra World Hospital, Bengaluru, pointed out that the reason for the increase in typhoid cases include water infrastructure and scarcity, with urbanisation outpacing sanitation infrastructure. He said that dependency on private water tankers which often draw water from unmonitored sources, increases contamination risk. He pointed out that ageing pipelines frequently leak, allowing sewage to mix with drinking water. Rising temperatures and erratic rainfall patterns, he said, extend the breeding season for bacteria. He also said that heatwaves lead to higher consumption of untreated water and street-side beverages, which are primary transmission vectors. He added that there has been a rise in drug-resistant strains, making standard treatments less effective, leading to longer recovery times and a higher 'active' case count in the population.

Health professionals noted that while typhoid was once considered seasonal, clusters of cases are now reported even in "off-peak" months. There has been a shift where urban areas, particularly congested localities and construction zones, are now reporting numbers comparable to or higher than rural regions.

A major concern reported by doctors in early 2026 is that over two-thirds of cases are now resistant to the standard antibiotics, added Dr Kumar. "This has led to prolonged fever cycles that last much longer than typical cases, a higher rate of hospitalisations, as oral medications often fail and patients require intravenous (IV) treatment. The Typhoid Vaccine is the most effective preventive tool," he said.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare has issued comprehensive Public Health Guidelines for Flood Events, focusing on disease surveillance and the prevention of water-borne, food-borne, and vector-borne diseases. The guidelines also address issues related to water safety and sanitation.

Kristu Jayanti University shines at Youth Festival

Kristu Jayanti University, Bengaluru, achieved a milestone at the 39th AIU Inter-University National Youth Festival, organised by the Association of Indian Universities (AIU) and hosted by Sathyabama Institute of Science and Technology, Chennai, from March 9 to March 14, 2026. The festival, a cultural platform for university students, saw participation from 143 universities nationwide. For the first time, Kristu Jayanti University qualified in four events: Creative Choreography, Mimicry, Solo Instrumental (Western), and Group Singing

(Western). On the national stage, the university secured first place in Solo Instrumental (Western), second place in Creative Choreography and Group Singing (Western), and third place in Mimicry. The university's achievements marked a proud moment in its cultural journey. **–BMB**

₹1 crore grant for English teacher training

The Karnataka Department of School Education and Literacy has reportedly sanctioned Rs 1 crore to the Regional Institute of English South India (RIESI), Bengaluru, for English language teacher training in 2025–2026. The programme, to be implemented by the Department of State Educational Research and Training (DSERT), aims to enhance teaching quality in government schools.

According to a government order issued on March 13, 2026, the allocation under the state sector includes Rs 60 lakh for core RIESI training programmes, Rs 4 lakh for three-to-four-day EMTIP-7 workshops for 35 Master Resource Persons, Rs 15 lakh for training 210 teachers across 35 districts, Rs 18 lakh for District Resource Team training of 250 individuals in four divisions, and Rs 3 lakh for administrative expenses. Officials stated that this initiative will strengthen English proficiency across Karnataka's public schools. **–BMB**

50 govt high schools to become PU colleges

In a move aimed at improving access to higher education, the Karnataka government has approved the upgradation of 50 government high schools into Pre-University (PU) colleges, particularly in areas where students have no nearby college facilities. The initiative is expected to benefit many students, especially girls who often discontinue studies after SSLC due to the lack of colleges in rural and remote areas. Under the new plan, PU classes will be started in selected schools that have at least 40 SSLC students and are located in regions where no government PU college exists within a 15-km radius. The Education Department has been permitted to begin PU courses with one or two subject combinations in the first phase across districts including Bengaluru, Dakshina Kannada, Mysuru, Shivamogga, Chikkaballapura and Bagalkot. **–BMB**

CRIME FILES

Domestic dispute ends in murder

A man allegedly murdered his wife by slitting her throat following a quarrel over a trivial issue at their residence in Bilekahalli on Sunday night. The crime came to light after their child approached the police and lodged a complaint.

According to police, the family originally hails from Davanagere district and had shifted to Bengaluru about four years ago. The deceased has been identified as Gowramma (45) and the accused as Nagaraj. They were residing in Bilekahalli within the jurisdiction of MICO Layout Police Station.

The complainant stated that the father worked as a security guard while the mother was employed in housekeeping. The child is engaged in the catering field. Police said the accused frequently consumed alcohol and often quarrelled with his wife. On the night of March 15, between 8.30 pm and 9.30 pm, the couple reportedly argued over a minor issue.

During the altercation, the accused allegedly attacked Gowramma with a knife and slit her throat, killing her on the spot. After committing the crime, the accused fled the scene. Based on the complaint, MICO Layout police have registered a murder case and launched a search operation. Special teams have been formed to trace and apprehend the accused. —BMB

Mechanic murdered over cash demand

A 45-year-old jeep mechanic was brutally beaten to death in front of his children by a group of men allegedly over a demand for ₹50,000 at Bada Makhan Road in Wilson Garden on Sunday night. Police have arrested seven individuals in connection with the murder.

The deceased, Rasheed Pasha, ran a jeep mechanic shop in the area. According to police, he had erected a new shed for his shop on Sunday morning. Soon after, a group of men allegedly approached him and demanded ₹50,000 as payment. When Rasheed refused to pay, an argument broke out between them.

Later that night, around 8.30 pm, three of the accused reportedly returned and again demanded the money. When Rasheed refused, they allegedly attacked him with a stick and a bat in front of his two children.

The assault left Rasheed critically injured and he collapsed at the spot. Locals attempted to rush him to a nearby hospital, but he had succumbed to his injuries by then. The accused fled after the attack. The body was shifted to Victoria Hospital for post-mortem examination. Wilson Garden police registered a murder case and arrested seven suspects while continuing their investigation. —BMB

Juice worker abducted over video

A 23-year-old juice shop worker from Assam was allegedly abducted in an autorickshaw near Laxmisagar Layout in KR Puram on Sunday night after he reportedly recorded a video of a man with a girl.

According to the police, the victim, Shabir, was picked up in an autorickshaw around 11.15 pm near his friend's house. His friend Faizu, a security guard and the complainant in the case, alerted the police after Shabir went missing.

Police officials said the accused abducted Shabir and took him towards Ramamurthy Nagar. They allegedly forced him to delete the video from his mobile phone before abandoning him. The victim was later found around 2.30 am and was taken home by his relatives.

Police have registered a case under Section 140 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita, corresponding to Section 365 of the IPC, at KR Puram Police Station. Two accused, Sajid, a Blinkit worker from TC Palya, and Subramani, a bakery worker, have been arrested, while two others, including an autorickshaw driver, are being traced. The investigation is ongoing. —BMB

730 drunk driving cases in week

Bengaluru Traffic Police conducted a special enforcement drive against drunk driving and overspeeding across the city from March 9 to 15, 2026, officials said. As part of the drive against drunken driving, police registered 730 cases against drivers and riders found operating vehicles under the influence of alcohol.

Officers from 53 traffic police stations carried out the drive to improve road safety. During the week-long operation, 50,760 vehicles were checked across the city. In a parallel crackdown on speeding, traffic police booked 271 motorists and collected 2.75 lakh in fines.

Officials said the drive aimed to curb drunken driving and speeding. Police warned motorists to follow traffic rules, adding similar drives will continue. —BMB

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Women accuse cop of harassment

Three women accuse Mangaluru inspector of sexual harassment

Serious allegations of sexual harassment, extortion and intimidation have surfaced against Inspector PG Sandesh of the Moodbidri Police Station in Mangaluru, prompting an official probe.

Three women have filed separate complaints accusing the officer of misconduct. The complaints were submitted to the State Home Minister, Chief Secretary, Director General of Police M.A. Saleem and the State Women's Commission.

In her complaint, one woman alleged that on August 18, 2025, Inspector Sandesh arrested her husband on what she described as false charges and demanded ₹25 lakh to settle the case.

She further claimed that the officer said he had paid ₹50 lakh to secure his posting. When she failed to arrange the money, he allegedly demanded sexual favours and threatened consequences if she refused.

The woman stated that she eventually paid ₹50,000 in cash due to the pressure. However, she alleged that the inspector continued to harass her and threatened to damage her reputation through drug peddlers if she did not comply.

Two other women have also lodged complaints accusing the officer of similar misconduct.

Taking suo motu cognisance, the State Women's Commission has issued a notice to Mangaluru Police Commissioner Sudhir Kumar Reddy seeking an inquiry and disciplinary action. —BMB

RCB home ground gets govt nod

The Karnataka government on Monday approved the Karnataka State Cricket Association (KSCA) and Royal Challengers Bengaluru (RCB) to host the 2026 Indian Premier League matches at the M Chinnaswamy Stadium.

The approval ends months of uncertainty following the stampede during RCB's victory celebrations last year that killed 11 people and injured more than 30.

The decision followed a meeting chaired by Karnataka Home Minister G Parameshwara with an expert committee and representatives from KSCA, RCB, and DNA Entertainment. The committee submitted a report on the stadium's preparedness, after which the minister approved hosting IPL matches at the venue. The 19th IPL season begins March 28, with RCB facing Sunrisers Hyderabad in the opener. The venue will also host the RCB Unboxing event and opening ceremony, with five RCB home matches in Bengaluru and two in Raipur. —PTI

Garbage black spot haunts Shivajinagar for months

Residents complain vacant site on Narayan Pillai Street turning into garbage dump for eighteen months, rats increasing and authorities still not fixing problem

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An 18-month-old black spot has become a major concern for residents of 3rd Cross on Narayan Pillai Street in the Shivajinagar Assembly constituency. Residents say they have repeatedly approached authorities seeking a solution, but the issue remains unresolved.

Residents say some people dump different kinds of waste on a vacant site in the area. They say neither the site owner nor Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited (BSWML) nor volunteers took steps to clear or beautify the location, which has now become an eyesore and health hazard.

"The vacant site has become a destination for uncivilised people and irresponsible residents to dump waste. The more accumulation of waste the more trouble for us. The vacant site with garbage has become a home for rats. This black spot may cause health problems to the people resident adjacent to the vacant site," said Maria Irene, a resident of 3rd Cross, Narayan Pillai Street.

Maria Irene also expressed concern about the impact of the dumping on children and pedestrians. "Sometimes garbage spreads onto the road and it becomes for pedestrians to walk on the road in such situations," she said, adding that the situation becomes worse when waste spills onto the street.

The blackspot on 3rd Cross of Narayan Pillai Street in Shivajinagar

"I am disappointed with the apathy and negligence of the authorities. It will be a great help if the authorities ensure the vacant site is free from dumping garbage

– Maria, Social activist, Shivajinagar

Janaki, a homemaker in the locality, said the problem has made everyday life difficult for residents. Appealing to authorities to resolve the issue, she said the garbage dumping has become a constant nuisance. "I am finding it tough to cope with rats and bad stench emanating from heaps of garbage. We faced a lot of problems when pourakarmikas failed to clear garbage," Janaki said.

Residents also say they have informed several authorities about the condition of the vacant site. Maria, a social activist from Shivajinagar, said she had already raised the issue with concerned officials and representatives at the local MLA's office. "I am disappointed with the apathy and negligence of the authorities. It will be a great help if the authorities ensure the vacant site is free from dumping garbage. The authorities should ensure door to door collection of garbage on a regular basis to avoid people dumping garbage on vacant sites and on the roadside," Maria said.

Meanwhile, a senior official from BSWML said the matter would be examined. BSWML Assistant General Manager Janardhan said action would be taken after an inspection. "I will ask the Junior Health Inspector to visit the spot. The problem will be fixed," he said.

Growing toll collections spark demand for policy review

Industry representatives urge Union government to review outdated toll policy as highway usage, vehicle numbers and national toll revenues continue rising

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As toll collections on national highways continue to rise across the country, industry representatives are urging the Union government to review the National Highways Fee Rules, 2008, saying the nearly two-decade-old framework no longer reflects present road usage and traffic realities.

India collects toll from motorists through more than 1,175 toll plazas across the country, governed by the National Highways Fee Rules framed in 2008. However, stakeholders say the rules, calculations and traffic assumptions made then require reassessment today. Under the current system, toll rates are revised periodically, with annual revisions linked to the Wholesale Price Index. Additional revisions at several toll plazas during October also lead to frequent increases in toll charges for motorists.

Sources said toll revenue has grown sharply over the years. Estimates show daily collections across India range between 180 crore and 200 crore, reflecting average annual growth of about 19 percent. Tolls are collected on over 65,000 km of national highways, meaning motorists pay substantial charges while travelling on these routes.

Over 65,000 kilometres of highways currently collect toll nationwide

Industry representatives point out that India's highway network has expanded significantly over the last 15 to 18 years, accompanied by a steep rise in the number of registered vehicles and traffic density on national highways. "The toll policy was framed nearly two decades ago based on the traffic volume and vehicle numbers that existed then. Today the situation has changed drastically, and the policy must be reviewed accordingly," said K. Radhakrishna Holla, President of the Karnataka State Travel Operators Association and Director of FKCCI.

"In some stretches, the toll revenue may have even exceeded the project cost. This raises the question of whether the same toll structure should continue indefinitely

– K Radhakrishna Holla

According to him, the formula used to revise toll charges, which links increases to the WPI and generally results in annual hikes of 2.5 percent to 5 percent, is difficult for many road users to understand. "For ordinary travellers and transport operators, the calculation mechanism remains complex and lacks transparency," Holla noted.

There is also a growing perception among road users that in several highway projects, the original investment for road construction may have already been recovered through toll collections. "In some stretches, the toll revenue may have even exceeded the project cost. This raises the question of whether the same toll structure should continue indefinitely," he said.

Given these developments, stakeholders say determining toll charges solely under the 2008 rules may no longer be appropriate. They argue policy decisions must consider rising vehicle numbers, increased traffic density, expanded highway usage and cumulative toll revenue collected over the years. Holla has urged the Union government to constitute an expert committee to review the National Highways Fee Rules. The panel, he suggested, should compare vehicle numbers before 2008 with registration data up to March 2026 and analyse total toll revenue generated during the period. "A transparent reassessment of toll pricing is necessary to ensure fairness and accountability for road users," Holla said, adding that a revised policy would balance infrastructure funding needs with the interests of motorists and transport operators.

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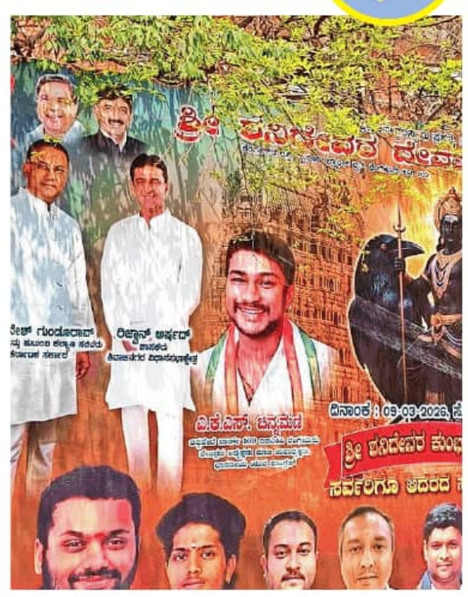
Path blocked
Mathikere

Footpath near JP Park in Gokula First Stage, Mathikere allegedly encroached upon by a property owner for commercial use along 15th Main Road.

Illegal hoarding
Palace Road



Illegal banner reportedly put up near Mysore Bank Circle on Palace Road.

Urban clutter
Shivaji Nagar

Despite the ban, illegal hoardings continue to appear near Anil Kumble Circle in Shivaji Nagar, while GBA authorities have allegedly turned a blind eye.

Digital dilemma

Survey reveals toll of social media on children's mental well-being, along with alarming concerns like exposure to inappropriate content, blackmail, scams and cyber bullying

A recent survey has highlighted growing concerns among parents in Bengaluru about the impact of social media on children's mental health, with many reporting rising anxiety, sleep disturbances and anger issues among those aged between 9 and 17.

The survey, conducted by LocalCircles, gathered more than 11,000 responses from residents across the city. Nearly 47 per cent of respondents said children in their families had encountered inappropriate or adult content online in the past year. Another 41 per cent reported that minors had been exposed to risks such as artificial intelligence-based photo or video morphing and deepfake misuse.

Online harassment also emerged as a major concern. Around 31 per cent of respondents said children had experienced bullying or trolling by peers, while 33 per cent reported that minors had received abusive messages from strangers. About 29 per cent of families said children had faced threats of blackmail or coercion online, and 21 per cent indicated that minors had been targeted by online scams or fraud.

Behavioural concerns

Parents also pointed to the emotional toll of these experiences. According to the survey, 41 per cent of respondents said children in their families had developed fear or anxiety following unpleasant online interactions. Meanwhile, 59 per cent reported sleep-related problems or reduced concentration, and 61 per cent observed increased anger or aggressive behaviour among children. Experts say these trends are becoming increasingly visible in clinical settings. According to Dr Sachin Baliga, consultant psychiatrist at Fortis Hospital in Bengaluru, doctors are witnessing a steady rise in behavioural concerns among children and adolescents linked to excessive social media use.

"In recent years we are clearly seeing a rise in anxiety, irritability and anger-related behavioural problems among children and adolescents as they spend too much time on social media, particularly in the post-pandemic period when many academic activities moved online," he said.

Baliga explained that early exposure to social media often leads children to compare their real-life achievements with idealised portrayals of lifestyles, appearances and accomplishments they see online. "Studies show that adolescents experience more anxiety, stress and emotional instability when they spend more time on social networking platforms, especially when usage becomes excessive or compulsive," he said. He also pointed to emotional overstimulation as a key factor. "Children are exposed to continuous streams of information and opinions on social media, including negative and aggressive content that their developing brains may not be able to process effectively," he added.

Similar concerns were highlighted by Divya Reddy, a clinical psychologist at Fortis Hospital. She said mental health professionals are increasingly seeing children and teenagers becoming emotionally reactive, impatient and easily angered.

Mental health experts say solution lies not only in restrictions but also in balanced digital habits

Reddy added that the issue cuts across socioeconomic groups. "The concern is no longer limited to any one income group; we are seeing this pattern across families from different backgrounds. One common factor, however, is the lack of supervision during screen time, where children are consuming content without guidance about what they are watching and how it may affect them," she said.

She also highlighted the role of social media in shaping reward-seeking behaviour among young users. "Likes, comments, gaming rewards and online validation activate the brain's reward system, making children dependent on external approval. When this validation is not received, they may experience anger, frustration, mood swings or withdrawal," she explained.

Safeguards for children

Amid growing concerns about the impact of digital platforms on children, the Government of Karnataka has proposed banning social media use for children below the age of 16. However, details about how such a ban would be implemented or enforced are still under discussion.

Participants in the survey also called for stronger safeguards on digital platforms. Many emphasised the need for improved reporting mechanisms to flag harmful content or harassment involving children, and suggested the creation of a national helpline or dedicated portal where families can report online safety concerns.

Mental health experts, meanwhile, stress that the solution lies not only in restrictions but also in balanced digital habits. Baliga noted that limiting screen time, encouraging outdoor activities, strengthening family interaction and teaching children emotional coping skills are important steps in reducing the psychological impact of excessive social media use.

Customs officials seize drugs worth Rs 39.37 lakh

Bengaluru Customs officials at Kempegowda International Airport seized 1.125 kilograms of hydroponic ganja valued at Rs 39.37 lakh on March 14, 2026. Authorities confirmed that the narcotics were smuggled in from Bangkok, and the passenger carrying them has been detained under the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) Act.

Officials said that the drugs were concealed inside a compact box decorated with a koi fish painting, which aroused suspicion. Upon breaking open the box, officers discovered the hydroponic ganja hidden inside. The seizure was announced by Customs officials on X on Monday. Further investigation is underway. **BMB**

Bannerghatta Biological Park welcomes new additions

Zebra Kokila, aged two-and-a-half years, gave birth to a foal on January 17, and Kaveri, another zebra aged 12 years, gave birth to a foal on January 28. Both foals are identified as females. The newborns are housed with the other zebras and are under constant observation by BBP's veterinary team and animal keepers. With the addition of the foals, the total number of zebras in the zoo has steadily increased to 10.

BBP informed that zebras have a gestation period of 12 to 13 months, and the foal has brown stripes, which will eventually become black. Visitors can get a glimpse of the newborns during their visit. **BMB**

Upset over insufficient replies, Assembly Speaker walks out

Upset over the insufficient number of written replies from government departments to MLAs' questions, Karnataka Assembly Speaker UT Khader on Monday adjourned the House and walked out, stating that he would not run the House until concerned ministers and secretaries provide an explanation.

The Speaker's move, considered "unprecedented" by many legislators, came after Home Minister G Parameshwara tabled 84 written replies against 230 'unstarred' questions submitted by MLAs.

Following the developments, Parameshwara later in the day informed the House that the government has taken the matter very seriously and will ensure things are set right. He also said that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah directed the Chief Secretary to issue notices to department secretaries and even suspend the secretary in whose department many questions are pending replies.

Khader, on Friday, had admonished the government, stating that his "gentleness" should not be mistaken for "weakness," as he took strong exception to the government replying to only a few of the MLAs' questions. **PTI**

ED probes real estate firm for money laundering

Bengaluru-based real estate firm Mantri Developers Private Limited is under investigation by the Enforcement Directorate (ED) in connection with an alleged money laundering case linked to a larger financial fraud. On Monday, ED officials carried out search operations at the company's office premises, residences of its directors, and associated entities.

As part of the probe, investigators examined digital devices and key documents to trace the flow of funds and identify possible violations of law. The searches were conducted under Section 17 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA), targeting suspected financial irregularities involving multiple entities.

According to ED officials, incriminating material in the form of documentary and digital evidence was seized, and over 90 bank accounts have been frozen. The searches spanned 19 premises across Chandigarh, Haryana, Punjab, and Bengaluru on March 11 and 12, 2026.

The case is linked to the alleged embezzlement of approximately Rs 590 crore of public funds connected to government accounts maintained at IDFC First Bank. The funds, reportedly intended for fixed deposits, were allegedly diverted without proper authorisation.

Former bank employees, their families, and beneficiary shell entities are now under scrutiny by the ED. **BMB**

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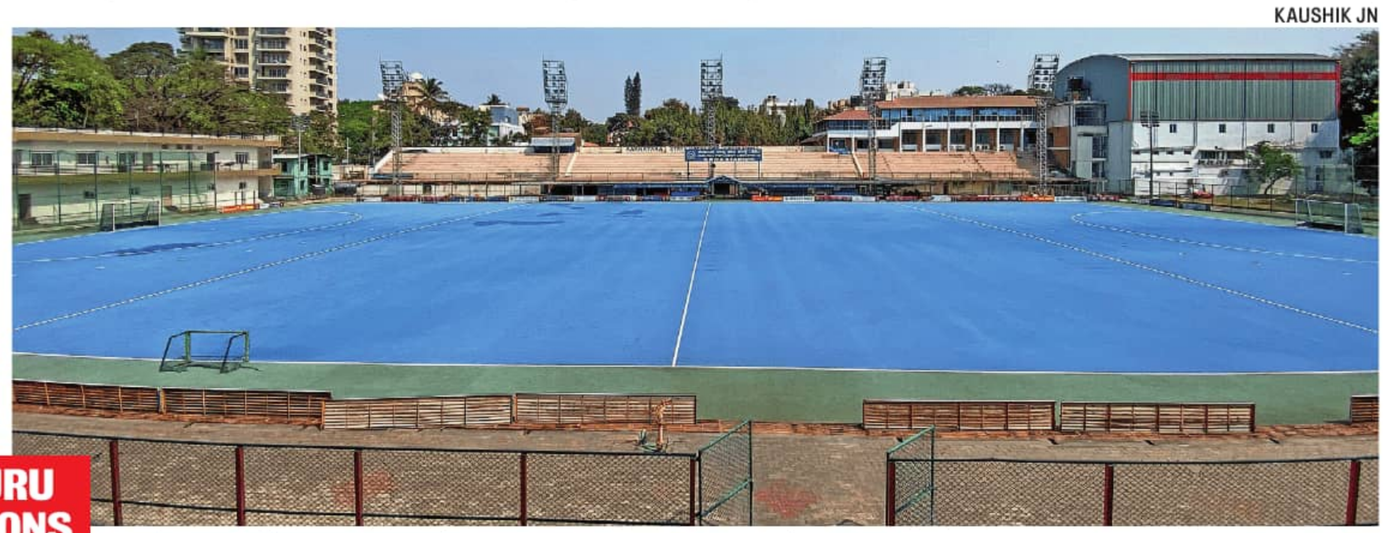
KSHA's 93-year legacy continues to shape Indian Hockey's future

For over nine decades, Karnataka State Hockey Association has nurtured players, built facilities, and strengthened Indian hockey through tournaments and training

KAUSHIK JN



Hockey activities at the KSHA stadium are conducted with government support, while domestic coaches train players to reach national and international competition standards

Vasudha Zora
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TWEETS @BangaloreMirror

BENGALURU INSTITUTIONS IN FOCUS

From historic grounds to modern sports complexes, KSHA has played a crucial role in producing national-level players, promoting hockey infrastructure, and supporting athletes through training, facilities, and opportunities for international representation

When we speak of our National Game, Hockey, most are unaware of the luminaries who have dotted the International Olympics scenario. From their first Olympic appearance in 1928 to the World Cup triumph in 1975 in men's hockey, Indian players have come from diverse backgrounds, including the armed forces, research organisations, banks and the railways. Through these decades, one institution that has consistently nurtured the sport in Karnataka is the Karnataka State Hockey Association (KSHA), which has played a significant role in producing players who have represented the country at the highest level.

The KSHA is among the oldest state hockey associations in the country. It was formed in 1932 and later registered as a society with the Registrar of Societies in Karnataka in 1969. Over its 93-year history, the association has organised several international matches, senior and junior national championships, sub-junior tournaments and zonal competitions, helping build a strong hockey culture in the State.

In its early years, KSHA conducted matches at the Sullivan Police Ground on Margaret Road. Later, after discussions with the government, the association shifted its activities to the KSHA Stadium at Langford Town in Bengaluru, where the land has been leased by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for 99 years. The stadium now serves as the centre for most hockey activities in the State.

To strengthen sports infrastructure, KSHA established a clubhouse in 1994 with members from different walks of life. Over the years, the club has developed into a well-known sports facility comparable to those of other sporting disciplines such as cricket, tennis, badminton, billiards and golf. On February 1, 2026, the association inaugurated a renovated sports complex that includes three badminton courts, eight billiards and snooker tables, a gymnasium, a sports massage and rehabilitation centre, a swimming pool and guest rooms for players and members.

Hockey activities in the State are conducted in coordination with the Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports (DYES). Sports hostels functioning in the western wing of the KSHA stadium are run by DYES and the Sports Authority of India (SAI) to train young players. The Union Sports Ministry and Hockey India continue to support national teams, while domestic coaches, many of whom have represented India, handle training camps.

KSHA spends nearly 20 lakh every year on hockey-related activities, including food, medical care, sports injury treatment and equipment. The association also conducts refresher courses for umpires and coaches, while the synthetic turf at the Bengaluru stadium helps players train at international standards.

India remains one of the most successful hockey nations, with 27 major senior international titles and legends such as Dhyan Chand, Dhanraj Pillay and Karnataka's own AB Subbaiah inspiring generations.

Child marriages drop 21% in Karnataka

Child marriage cases in Karnataka have declined by 21.35 percent over the past three years, according to data from the State Department of Women and Child Development, with officials attributing the drop to stricter enforcement, awareness campaigns and the use of technological tools such as the Surakshini web portal.

A total of 830 child marriages were reported in 2023, which reduced to 804 cases in 2024 and further dropped to 650 cases by December 2025. During the same period, complaints and prevention efforts increased significantly. In 2023, the department received 2,605 complaints, out of which 1,775 child marriages were prevented while 830 cases took place. In 2024, complaints rose to 3,127, with 2,323 marriages stopped and 804 reported to have occurred. By 2025, 3,044 complaints were recorded, of which 2,394 child marriages were prevented while 650 cases were conducted.

District-wise data shows variations across the state. Belagavi recorded the highest number of complaints in 2025 with 260 reports, of which 196 were prevented and 64 marriages occurred. Chitradurga reported 181 complaints, preventing 99 cases, while 82 child marriages took place, the highest in the state. Kolar recorded 132 complaints with 66 prevented, while Shivamogga reported 141 complaints, stopping 76 cases and recording 65 marriages.

Officials said coordinated action, training of Child Marriage Prohibition Officers, welfare schemes and stronger monitoring through an upgraded Surakshini portal are expected to further reduce cases. **–BMB**

BM Trippin' Tales

Consumer Connect Initiative

Budikote fort neglected despite being birthplace of Mysore ruler Hyder Ali

Encroachments, poor maintenance and lack of facilities prevent historic Budikote fort in Kolar district from emerging as a major heritage tourism destination

Sridhar.Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

A small fort, views of the countryside and centuries old structures that whisper stories of the past. The village of Budikote in Bangarpet taluk of Kolar district holds all the elements of a historic destination. Yet, despite being the birthplace of the Mysore ruler Hyder Ali, the iconic fort here remains largely neglected and far from realising its tourism potential.

Budikote, located in Bangarpet taluk, is believed to be the birthplace of Hyder Ali in 1721. The military leader later rose to power and ruled the Kingdom of Mysore, making Srirangapatna his capital. Before ascending to power, Hyder Ali served as a commander under the Mysore rulers. The remnants of the fort at Budikote, along with ancient temples and water structures built during that period, still stand as reminders of an important chapter in Karnataka's history.

The site has been recognised by the Archaeological Survey of India as a monument of national importance. As per official guidelines, a 100-metre radius around the fort has been declared a prohibited area where construction activities are not allowed. However, residents and history enthusiasts say these rules have not been strictly enforced.

Over the years, several buildings have come up dangerously close to the fort walls. Houses and commercial structures have mushroomed along the edges of the historic complex, gradually overshadowing the ruins that once symbolised the region's past glory. Locals allege that encroachments and the lack of preservation efforts are slowly erasing the historical character of the site.

Pathway to the historic fort area in Budikote where visitors walk towards the birthplace memorial of Hyder Ali, surrounded by ageing structures and limited facilities

At the entrance to the fort, a stone plaque states that Hyder Ali, who lived between 1720 and 1782, was born at this location. Inside the fort complex are old shrines dedicated to Venugopala and Sugriva, along with a traditional pond that once served the settlement. At the centre stands a small memorial stone marking the spot believed to be Hyder Ali's birthplace. The stone has been enclosed within a wall about five feet high and secured with an iron gate.

Despite the site's historical importance, locals say very little has been done to develop it as a tourist destination. Chandru, a resident, said the government must take steps to develop the birthplace of Hyder Ali by providing basic infrastructure and promoting it as a heritage attraction. He said the place has great historical value and could attract many visitors if properly developed.

Residents say they have repeatedly submitted requests to authorities to provide facilities and develop the fort as a heritage tourism centre. Representations have also been made to the tourism department and the Waqf Board, but no concrete action has been taken so far.

Tourists from different parts of the country, and occasionally from abroad, visit Budikote to see the historic fort, but many leave disappointed due to the absence of basic amenities such as drinking water, toilets and proper visitor facilities. History enthusiasts warn that unless urgent conservation measures are taken, the structures that once witnessed the rise of a powerful ruler may fade into obscurity, taking with them a vital part of Karnataka's heritage.

LPG: Even before shortage, it was too dear for many

Over 2 lakh beneficiaries of LPG connections could not afford to refill cylinders even once in 2024–25

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KAUSHIK JN

Stack of commercial gas cylinders at a distribution point, with agencies facing complaints over irregular supply and rising costs affecting small hotels and eateries

Just as people began scrambling for LPG cylinders fearing shortages triggered by the West Asia conflict, data from Karnataka exposed a stark paradox. More than two lakh families in the state who were given LPG connections had never refilled their cylinders even once, revealing that while the fuel is now seen as indispensable, many households had long left their cylinders untouched.

Under the Pradhan Mantri Ujjwala Yojana, a total of 18,32,338 LPG connections have been provided to families in Karnataka. However, during 2024–25, as many as 2,07,344 beneficiaries did not refill their cylinders even once, while 16,24,994 households used their connections by refilling the cylinder at least once. Data from Indian Oil Corporation Limited also indicates that nearly 10 to 15 percent of beneficiary families in the state have never refilled their cylinders after receiving the connection.

The trend is not limited to Karnataka. Across India, around 13.5 lakh Ujjwala beneficiaries did not refill their cylinders even once during the same period, while 13.15 lakh households refilled only once and 13.75 lakh refilled twice, reflecting irregular usage among a significant section of beneficiaries.

The number of beneficiaries under the Ujjwala scheme in Karnataka has steadily increased over the past few years, rising from 15.28 lakh in 2022 to 16.54 lakh in 2023, 18.31 lakh in 2024, and 18.32 lakh in 2025. Despite the expansion of coverage, affordability and accessibility continue to influence usage patterns, especially in rural areas.

Sources said that with the cost of a domestic LPG cylinder crossing 900 per refill, many low-income households find it difficult to afford regular use. In several villages, delivery of cylinders is irregular, forcing families to continue depending on firewood stoves and other traditional fuels. As a result, while the recent fears of supply disruption have made LPG seem essential, lakhs of households had quietly kept their cylinders unused for years.

Meanwhile, shortage of commercial LPG cylinders has begun to affect businesses, with hotel owners warning of losses of up to 100 crore if the situation continues. Bengaluru alone has more than 15,000 hotels generating business worth crores every day, but the scarcity of cylinders has already forced some establishments to temporarily shut operations. Industry representatives said prolonged shortage could affect both business owners and workers dependent on the sector.

Data shows many families skipped LPG refills as high costs, irregular supply, and commercial cylinder shortage disrupted households and hotels

Hotel owners alleged that the shortage has also led to black marketing. Some traders were initially selling commercial cylinders for around 3,500, but prices have now reportedly risen to 6,000– 7,000 per cylinder. Owners said agencies are not responding to calls, leaving them uncertain about supply.

The Food and Civil Supplies Department has issued a helpline number (080-22264966) for complaints related to LPG distribution and warned agencies to ensure timely supply. Authorities said commercial cylinders would be prioritised for hospitals, educational institutions, railway stations, bus stands, old-age homes and major offices to avoid disruption of essential services.

Insurance relief likely for stressed exporters

The Commerce Ministry is set to introduce support measures to help exporters manage the impact of the ongoing West Asia crisis, Commerce Secretary Rajesh Agrawal said on Monday. He stated that the Department of Commerce is finalising a detailed plan, which is expected to be announced within the week, to assist exporters facing disruptions, particularly in the Middle East region.

Govt to announce plan within a week focusing on easing financial, logistical pressures

The proposed measures are likely to focus on easing financial and logistical pressures, including support related to insurance coverage. The crisis escalated after joint military action by the United States and Israel against Iran last month, which disrupted shipping and air routes across West Asia. As a result, exporters have been hit by rising oil prices, higher freight charges, and increased insurance premiums.

India's exports to West Asia stood at about USD 58.8 billion in 2024-25, and traders dealing in dry fruits, fresh produce, and vegetables have reported shipment delays and cancellations due to the conflict. An inter-ministerial group is monitoring the situation daily and coordinating with exporters to address emerging issues.

The Customs department has also issued guidelines for handling export consignments returning to Indian ports due to disruptions in the Strait of Hormuz. Sources said the ministry may extend support worth around ₹500 crore, including insurance assistance for exporters covered by the Export Credit Guarantee Corporation (ECGC) as well as those outside its coverage. —PTI

Indian tanker sets sail from UAE port after attack

Jag Laadki and its crew are safe after Fujairah attack while authorities coordinate evacuation, cargo movement, and protection of Indian ships stranded amid the Strait of Hormuz impasse

LPG carrier, Shivalik, arrives at Mundra Port via the Strait of Hormuz

An Indian-flagged crude oil tanker that sailed safely from the UAE's Fujairah port despite an attack on the terminal is scheduled to reach India on Tuesday, a senior official said, emphasizing that New Delhi is working to ensure the safe passage of remaining Indian-flagged vessels in the region.

The vessel, Jag Laadki, carrying about 80,800 tonnes of Murban crude from the UAE, and all 22 Indian seafarers onboard are safe, Rajesh Kumar Sinha, Special Secretary in the Ministry of Ports, Shipping and Waterways, said on Monday. Jag Laadki is the fourth among the 28 Indian ships that were stranded in the war-hit Strait of Hormuz over the past two weeks.

At present, 22 Indian-flagged vessels with 611 seafarers remain in the western Persian Gulf region. Two LPG carriers had begun their journey on March 13 and crossed the Strait of Hormuz early on March 14. One of them, Shivalik, has reached Mundra port in Gujarat, where advance paperwork and priority discharge arrangements were made. The other vessel, Nanda Devi, is expected to reach Kandla port on Tuesday morning.

At present, 22 Indian-flagged vessels with 611 seafarers remain in the western Persian Gulf region; 2 crossed Strait

The two ships together carry about 92,712 tonnes of LPG, equivalent to roughly one day's cooking gas requirement in the country. These vessels were among the 24 ships stranded on the western side of the strait after the conflict began in the region. Four other ships were stuck on the eastern side.

One of the vessels on the eastern side, the India-flagged oil tanker Jag Prakash, carrying gasoline from Oman to Africa, crossed the strait on Friday. It had loaded gasoline at Sohar port in Oman and is now headed to Tanga in Tanzania, where it is expected to arrive on March 21. Jag Laadki is the second tanker from the eastern side to move to safety and is scheduled to reach Mundra on Tuesday.

Officials said efforts are underway to secure safe passage for the remaining ships. Since the DG Shipping control room was activated, more than 3,000 calls and 5,400 emails from seafarers, families and maritime stakeholders have been handled.

A total of 286 Indian seafarers have been repatriated safely, including 33 in the last 48 hours.

Major ports are monitoring vessel movements and facilitating cargo operations, offering concessions on anchorage, berth hire and storage charges. —PTI

Ambulance management to be centralised

The Karnataka government is set to implement a centralised ambulance management system under the unified emergency helpline number '112', Medical Education & Skill Development Minister Sharanprakash Patil announced in the Legislative Council on Monday.

The minister said the new system is expected to be fully operational within three months, with technical integration currently in progress.

He said the government would directly take over the centralised management of all state ambulances under the '112' platform to ensure faster and more effective emergency healthcare delivery.

Patil said this in response to a question raised by MLC TN Javarayi Gowda during the question hour.

He said recruitment of supporting staff for ambulance services would also be undertaken shortly. **PTI**

Missing persons cases: Different states' cops need to work together

The Karnataka High Court has stressed the importance of stronger coordination between police authorities across different states while investigating cases of missing persons, observing that such investigations cannot be restricted to the territorial limits of one state when individuals may move or be taken elsewhere.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj made the observations while hearing a writ petition filed by a man seeking more effective action from the police to trace his cousin, who had been missing since June 2020. According to the petitioner, a complaint had been lodged soon after the disappearance and a First Information Report was registered. However, despite the passage of time, the investigation had not produced any concrete leads. The petitioner later came to know that the case had been categorised as "dormant", prompting him to approach the High Court seeking directions for a more meaningful probe.

While examining the matter, the Court noted that missing persons cases frequently involve circumstances where the individual may have travelled beyond the state in which the complaint was initially filed. In such situations, the Court observed, effective investigation becomes possible only when there is proper cooperation and communication

High Court underscores broader need for national-level framework for more effective tracking

between police forces from different states. Without such coordination, efforts to trace missing individuals may be delayed or rendered ineffective.

The bench emphasised that investigations in these cases require sustained efforts and cannot be treated as routine matters. It observed that police authorities must ensure that available leads are pursued diligently and that necessary assistance is sought from agencies in other states whenever there is a possibility that the missing person may have moved outside the original jurisdiction.

During the hearing, the Court also referred to recent administrative measures aimed at strengthening the institutional framework for handling missing persons complaints. It took note of a standing order issued in January 2026 providing for the creation of a District Missing Persons Unit (DMPU) in every district.

These units have been envisaged as specialised bodies responsible for dealing with complaints relating to missing persons and coordinating the efforts of various police stations within the district.

The Court noted that the establishment of these dedicated units is intended to ensure a more systematic approach to such cases. The units are expected to maintain records, monitor the progress of investigations and facilitate communication between different police authorities.

By centralising information and providing a structured mechanism for follow-up, the Court observed that these units could play a key role in ensuring that cases do not remain unattended or fall through procedural gaps.

The bench further observed that missing persons investigations often require continuous monitoring and coordination with multiple agencies. In many instances, information gathered in one state may prove crucial for investigations taking place in another. Therefore, the Court highlighted the need for a well-integrated system through which police authorities can exchange information quickly and efficiently. **BMB**

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I, NANDINI HEGDE Residing at SF-3 Saikrishna Splendor Apartment 1st Cross Gokul Main Road Doddakallasandra, Bengaluru -560062. Have changed my name to NANDINI NAGRAJ HEGDE vide affidavit dated: 12/03/2026 before notary B M CHANDRASHEKAR Bangalore.

I, Chitra Sudheer R/o Shyam Mohan Apt, Flat.GC, ground floor, Annaiah road, Kanakapura road, yelachenahalli, Bengaluru 560078 have changed my name to Chitra Pedaballi Sudheer. I shall be called by this name for all purposes

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I, Rajashri R/o Sattva Anugraha Tower 22, F504, 9th cross, summanahalli, Bengaluru 560079 have changed my name to Rajashri Heggde. Affidavit Dt.16/03/2026 notary Harisha G, B'luru

I, Venkatesh Prasad Kavitha Subramaniam S/O Subramani -am # No-303, Kemps Avenue, 1st Main Road, Pai Layout, Bangalore-560016 have changed my name to Venkatesh Prasad for all purposes

I Basheera W/O, Abdul Suban R/o Royal Elegance Layout Near Silk From P T S B M Road Channapatna Ramanagar Karnataka - 562120 have changed my name to Haleema Bi.

I, Sandeep G k S/o Krishna reddy R/o No:50,Gulakamale taralu, Bangalore - 560082 have changd my name to Sandeep K Reddy.

I, Venkata Krishna Chaitanya R/o Flat No A210 Wing 4 Abhigna Misty Woods 35th Main Jarganahalli Jp Nagar 6th Phase Bengaluru 560078 Have Changed My Name to Venkata Krishna Chaitanya Nuvvula for All Purposes.

I, Viswanath Mahadevan, lost a black folder containing my original masters degree - IIT Kanpur and Bachelors Degree - Univ of Calcutta. Please notify me if you find it at vmahad@yahoo.com .

RIJWAN AHMAD S/o Ramzan Ali, Aged About 30 Years, Residing at Hesaraghatta Main Road Vaderahalli Medi Agrahara, Vidyaranyapura, Bengaluru-560097 changed my name to RIJWAN AHAMAD

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I, Naveen Kumar .K.A, residing at No. 3769/1, Anjanadri Nilaya, KSRTC Layout, Nelamangala Town, Bangalore Rural District. The original sale deed of site no.8, Survey No.2, Kanegowdanahalli was lost at Nelamangala on 12.03.2026. In this regard, i have filed a complaint (L.R. No.2108280/2026) to the Bangalore Rural Police on 13.03.2026. If anyone finds the said document, please contact the above address or mobile number 9620365171.

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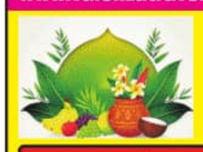

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Of 723 sanctioned posts, just 255 are occupied

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

performance of the state pollution control board in mitigating pollution in Bengaluru.

Role of the board

Experts say the state pollution control board, apart from providing consent for industrial operations, is supposed to monitor, inspect, and mitigate various forms of pollution, a duty not being fulfilled by the board, most likely due to the staff crunch.

"Bengaluru is reeling under irresponsible and unscientific disposal of various hazardous wastes, including biomedical waste. There are hardly any concrete actions taken by KSPCB in these matters. The board is also expected to spread awareness about waste management, which remains a distant dream.

There is still a lack of awareness among citizens on the single-use plastic ban, which was enforced by the Central Pollution Control Board in 2022. HC's order on public recruitment came in November. KSPCB has had a staff crunch for years now," said a city-based environmentalist.

However, as per the report by CPCB, the state pollution control board appears to have sufficient infrastructure for environmental monitoring. As per the report, all parameters under water and wastewater monitoring, solid waste monitoring, meteorology, air, noise, and emissions, and water and wastewater samplings are covered by the state pollution control board.

A majority of the parameters required for sampling ambient air and source emissions are also covered by KSPCB. But the CPCB has underlined that some laboratories, including Karnataka SPCB Central Laboratory, need improvement to get satisfactory results.

Summertime arson by the lake

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

said Chandra A, a resident of Devasandra.

Expressing concern over the damage to the trees, Balaji Raghotham, an environmentalist, said the lake department engineer has to take measures to use the leaves in compost.

"It is shocking to know about the damage caused to the trees. I have already appealed to the lake engineer to make arrangements to collect dry leaves and dump them into a pit. The authorities concerned must prevent miscreants entering the lake area to avoid fire mishaps," said Raghotham.

Demanding the police keep a vigil on miscreants, a resident pleading anonymity, said the lake has become a destination for illicit activities. "People are using narcotics or smoking up in the vicinity of the lake. Residents cannot chase them or prevent them entering the lake area. The lake authorities must inform the jurisdictional police to keep a vigil," the resident said.

A few residents, who visit the lake for morning or evening walks, complain of poor maintenance of the lake area. However, Yashwanth G, in-charge of Devasandra Lake maintenance, said that nobody was posted at Devasandra Lake on Sunday.

"The miscreants set dry leaves on the road on fire on Sunday and it spread into the lake area. I will engage more people to clear dry leaves. I appeal to the police to prevent misuse of the lake area," said Yashwanth.

Bengaluru East City Corporation (BECC) Executive Engineer (Lakes) Shivashankar Murthy said that he would look into the matter. "I will direct the contractor to clear dry leaves to avoid fire mishaps," the executive engineer said.

SANDALWOOD SHOTS

Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Emotional tale

Director Vishwas Krishna has been busy making arrangements for the release of his maiden movie Yava Mohana Murali Kareyithu. The film, billed as an emotional journey of a special child with an affectionate dog, is scheduled to arrive in theatres on March 27. It is inspired by the popular lyric Yava Mohana Murali Kareyithu from the Kannada movie America America. The lyrics were written by Gopalakrishna Adiga, a noted modern Kannada poet.

Speaking with Bangalore Mirror, director Vishwas Krishna said the movie has all elements, including the much-needed message to society on the importance of feeding stray dogs. "It is my first movie as a director. Prior to this, I worked as an associate director for seven Kannada movies. The shooting of the movie was held in and around Kargal village near Jog Falls. Prakruthi played the special child, while a dog named Rocky played an important role in the movie," said Krishna. He said that a real incident that took place in Bengaluru during the lockdown had inspired him to write the script for this movie.

Wedding whirl

The filming of the first schedule in and around Kundapura for 25 days of Marriage Party is completed and the second schedule has begun. The movie is being supported by Santosh V under the Varahi Films banner. With this, Santosh debuts as a producer in Sandalwood.

Marriage Party, billed as an out-and-out comedy, is directed by Chayan Shetty, known for Adhipathra, a suspense thriller.

Marriage Party is set against the backdrop of a village near Kundapura. It is expected that the movie will showcase funny incidents that take place during marriage functions at villages in coastal Karnataka. Director Chayan Shetty hails from Kundapura and wrote the script for the movie based on real-life incidents and traditions.

Vineeth Kumar, who has acted in a few Tulu movies, will play the protagonist in his first Kannada movie as a hero.

The movie also features Prakash Thumminad, Naveen Padil, Rakshitha, Namitha Kiran, Raamyaan, Raghu Pandaveshwara, and Pushparaj Bolar. It is expected to be released in Kannada and Malayalam.

Oscar looks that had everyone swooning

Here's a peek into what celebs wore to Oscars 2026

Priyanka Chopra and Nick Jonas

The beloved couple stole the show as they entered the Oscars red carpet hand in hand. 'The Bluff' actress returned to the show as a presenter in a glamorous all-white dress. Featuring a strapless upper bodice and a feathered trim at the bottom of the skirt, Chopra exuded elegance. Jonas accompanied her with a signature black and white bowtie suit, contrasting sharply with her dress for the night.

Nicole Kidman

This year, Nicole Kidman wore a beautiful bodycon pastel dress that contrasted directly with the surroundings. She stunned the crowd in a strapless blush-pink bodice, paired with a slim floor length skirt that also had feathers trailing around at the bottom. Kidman chose minimal accessories, wearing only a ring and a bracelet while keeping her eye makeup heavy.

Barbie Ferreira

The 'Euphoria' alum chose to be dramatic this award season, attending in a full cobalt blue floor length ball gown. The bodice featured a corset style with thin straps and a deep, square neckline. Additionally, the dress featured a heavy skirt that puffed and trailed around her as she walked and posed. The custom made look was a brand new flair on the classic princess ball gown.

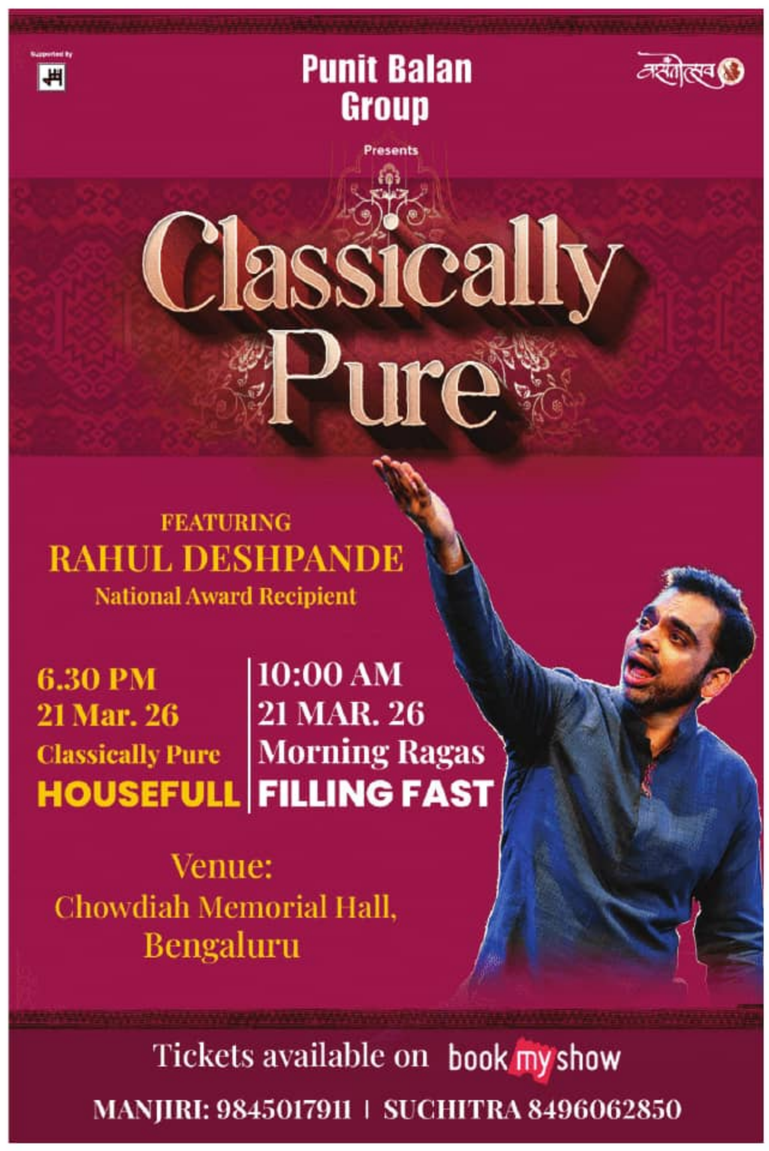
Teyana Taylor

The 'One Battle After Another' star was dressed head to toe in feathered material, which was a common theme at the Oscars. She wore a black and white contrasting dress with a semi-sheer bodice with spaghetti straps, while her skirt featured a feathered train behind. She kept the look more centered on the dress; however, she also featured a beautiful diamond necklace to complete it all.

Rose Byrne

Rose Byrne's strapless dress at the Oscars red carpet was another work of art. The actress wore a strapless, custom-made, designer black dress with crepe material. The floor-length dress also featured

embroidered floral prints along the structured bodice and the hem of the gown, which had a mermaid silhouette. She paired it all up with a simple, single-stone necklace.



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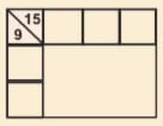
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

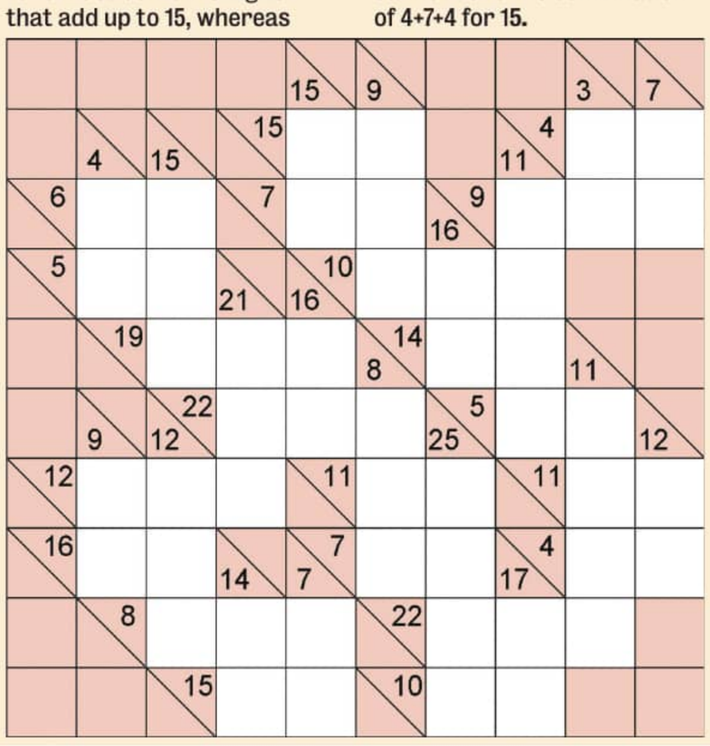
.18 x .5 + 5 = x +.6
x=?

Kakuro

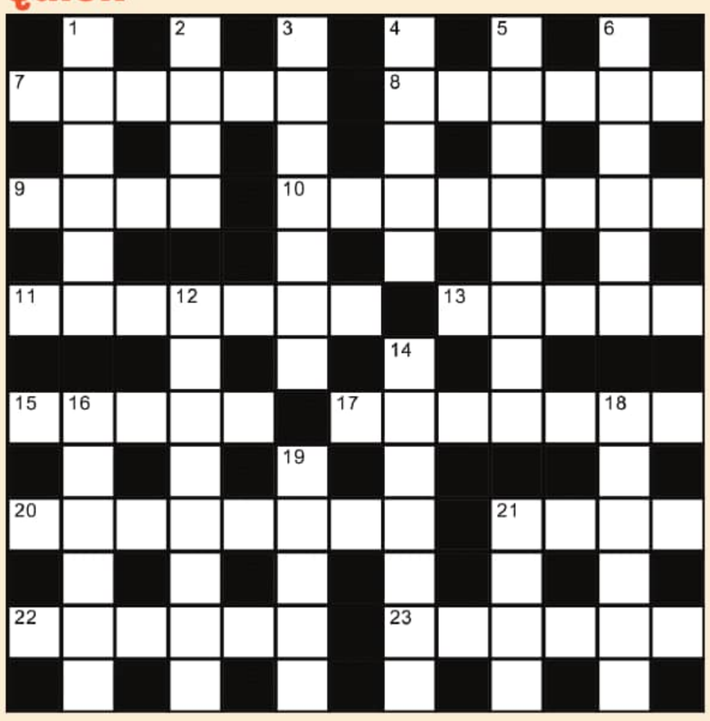
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Involuntary muscular movement (6)
8 ___ after : attended to or took care of? (6)
9 Famous architect (4)
10 Keeps from happening (8)
11 Viewpoints or appearances (7)
13 Pursue stealthily (5)
15 Made an enquiry (5)
17 Curative treatment (7)
20 A rapid preliminary inspection? (4-4)
21 Self-confident words (1,3)
22 Hurry up (6)
23 Acts poorly (6)

DOWN

1 Bladed weapons (6)
2 Oliver Hardy's partner ___ Laurel (4)
3 Indian flat bread (7)
4 Escapes (5)
5 Navigation guide (8)
6 Winner of all three Indian GPs (6)
12 Ingredients (8)
14 Oliver Twist author ___ Dickens (7)
16 Sailor of the Arabian Nights (6)
18 Logging tool (6)
19 Sheep-like (5)
21 Multiplex at Garuda Mall (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Z EQUALS D

P CWYPWBW WBWTH NFRIU NIO I VPUPSW UFRCWT AV NWITSCWISO. P ZAU'S PUSWUZ SA LIOSW IUH AV RPUW.–UWPY ITROSTAUD

Linemaro

I am bad in physics but I can tell you the intensity of the spark of my eyes when I see you

Mindchow

If you have knowledge, let others light their candles with it

Joke of the day

The smallest interval of time known to man is that which occurs between the traffic signal turning green and the cab driver behind you blowing his horn

Loop

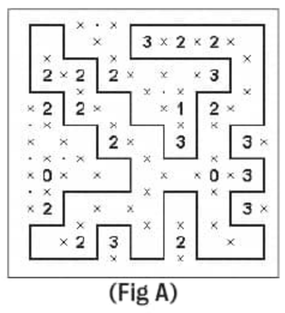
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

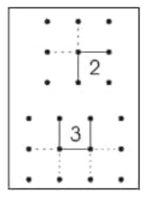
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

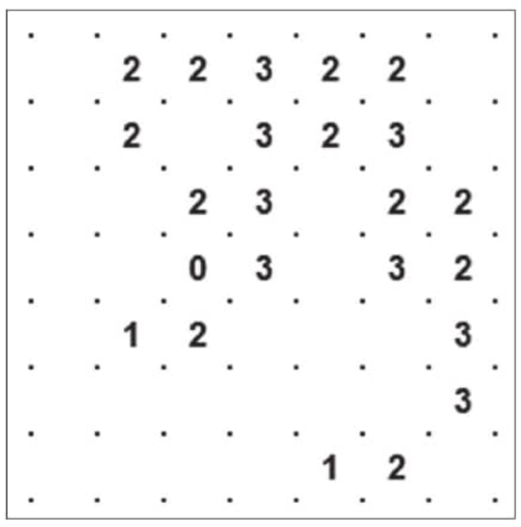
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



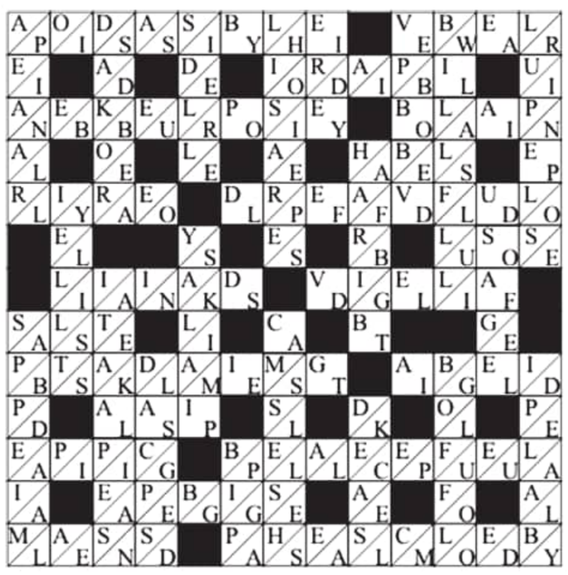
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5 H
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

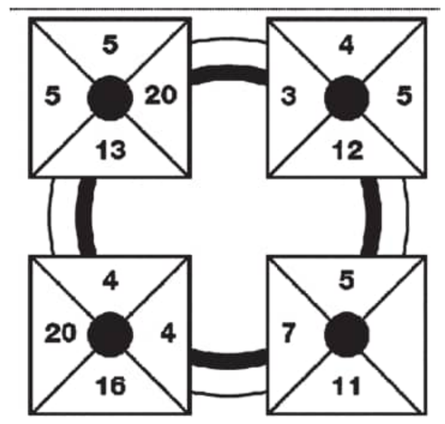
1 Ha LPs; 6 Ah pal; 7 Lansa; 8 I dime; 9 Daces

DOWN

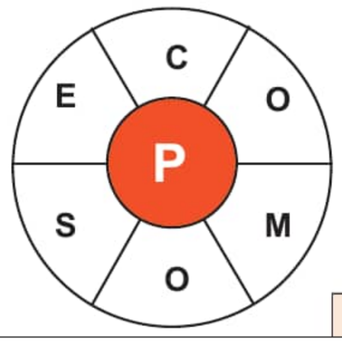
1 In Cap; 2 Ma lal; 3 I pass; 4 Ashed; 5 Held a

Mensapuzzle

Which number replaces the blank and completes the sequence?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

07 Average; **08** Good; **10** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

1		8				5		9
	9						2	
2		3		9		7		4
		6	5	7	4	3		
		4	1	2	8	6		
8		1		4		9		6
	5						4	
6		7				1		8

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

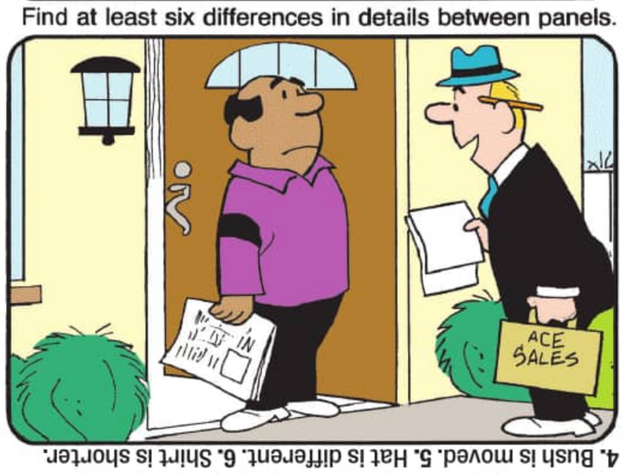
Easy = 27
4 9 8 6

Medium = 9
5 7 9 2

Hard = 12
5 6 6 7

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.



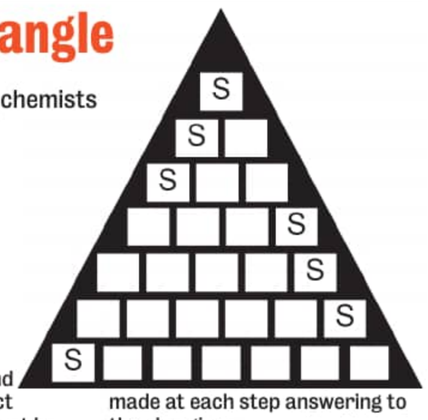
Differences: 1. Stripe on sleeve is lower. 2. Window in door is different. 3. Name on briefcase is different. 4. Bush is moved. 5. Hat is different. 6. Shirt is shorter.

Riddler

Fill in the blanks to create three English phrases in which all of the blank words are anagrams of one another ____ Water Fair ____ _____ R

Alpha triangle

1 Curved letter
2 Selenium for the chemists
3 Japanese money
4 Writes
5 Stays unsettled
6 Shells out
7 Hang freely

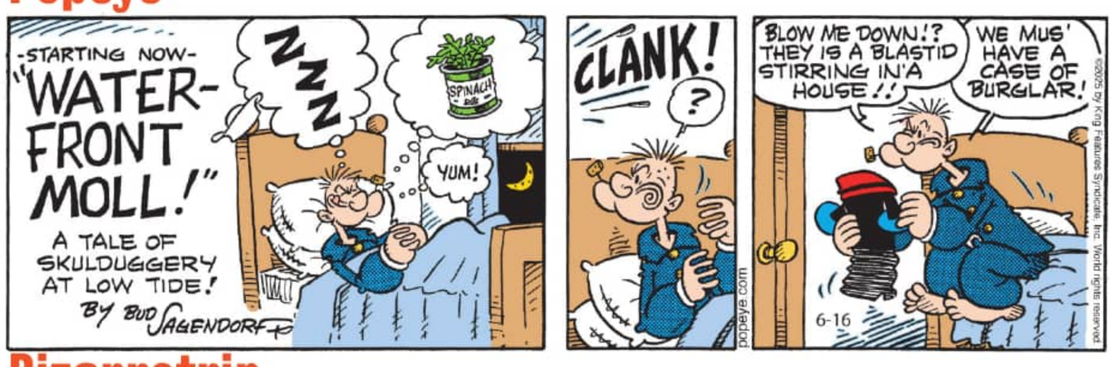


Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

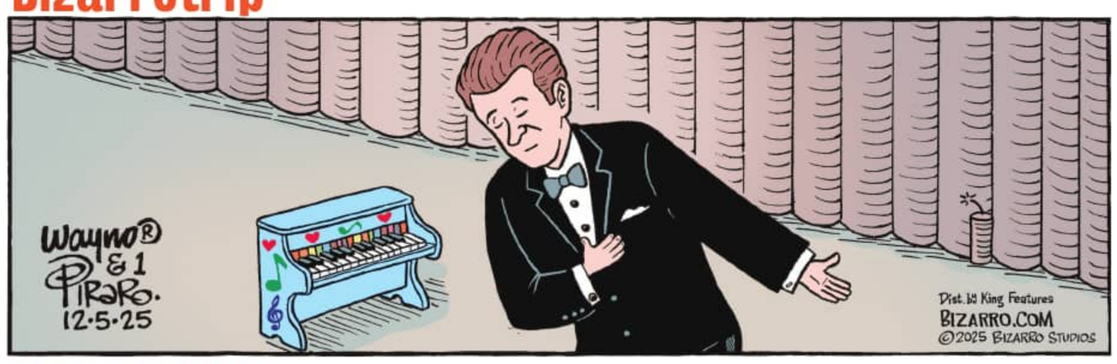
DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS

Popeye



Bizarrotrip



Diamond Lil

I THOUGHT Y'ALL MART GREETERS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE MORE CHEERFUL
AND I THOUGHT HAIR DYE WAS SUPPOSED TO BE LESS NOTICEABLE
HAVE A NICE DAY!
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Hart of the city

SNOW!
GETTING READY TO MAKE SOME SNOW ANGELS?
GETTING READY TO MAKE SOME MONEY!
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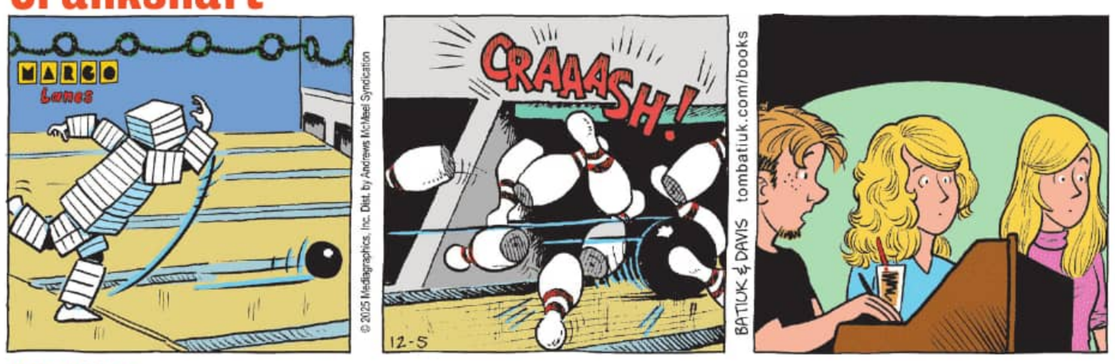
Crankshaft



Mutts

THE NEW MALL IS "Too BIG."
WHAT'S LEFT OF MY FOREST IS "Too SMALL."
WHY CAN'T THEY FIND SOMETHING "JUST RIGHT"?
12·5
mutts.com
www.kingfeatures.com

WRITTEN IN THE STARS

DR SUNDEEP KOCHAR

If it's your birthday today

Curiosity leads to exciting shifts. Love thrives on shared experiences and laughter. Career opportunities arise through learning and exploration. Finances improve when you try something new. Travel energizes your spirit. At home, fresh ideas spark change. Staying open-minded helps you rediscover joy while moving confidently toward personal and professional expansion.

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20

Your outlook brightens noticeably later this week. Recent worries shrink in importance, revealing they were never serious. Optimism returns naturally, helping you regain perspective, confidence, enthusiasm, clarity, motivation, balance, momentum.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20

So much is happening that labelling events as good or bad feels impossible. It doesn't matter; every experience holds value and can be shaped into something useful for your growth.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21

If an authority figure presents an offer today, delay responding. Pressure to decide immediately signals misalignment, so trust timing, wait patiently, and assess later with clearer judgment and confidence.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23

Eagerness to succeed grows, but patience is required. Your moment to demonstrate abilities arrives later, so avoid pushing prematurely and focus instead on preparation, restraint, timing, composure, strategy, steadiness, confidence.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23

Soon you'll have chances to move life forward boldly. For now, plan ambitiously without acting yet. Dream expansively, outline possibilities, and prepare for opportunities approaching quickly in coming days.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23

You may need to retrace steps today after realizing a wrong turn. Adjust willingly now; stubbornly continuing only complicates matters and makes correction more difficult later this week.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22

Encouraging news approaches later this week. Pay close attention to advice from trusted allies, as their broader perspective helps you understand unfolding events and make wiser, better-timed decisions.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22

You've taken on too much recently yet survived, proving resilience. Still, recognize limits and stop accepting excessive burdens that strain energy, focus, and well-being unnecessarily going forward.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22

Luck matters less than choices made consistently. Maintain belief in success and continue acting purposefully, knowing your decisions shape outcomes far more powerfully than chance ever could.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20

Remain calm today regardless of provocation. Even if anger simmers inside, project icy composure outward. Controlled restraint unsettles opponents more effectively than visible rage ever would.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19

Minor setbacks appear today, but don't overreact. What seems troubling now diminishes soon. Viewed broadly, your progress remains solid and direction positive despite temporary interruptions.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20

If motivation is lacking, drop the task and refocus elsewhere. Time is precious now, so invest energy only in pursuits that genuinely engage, inspire, and satisfy you.

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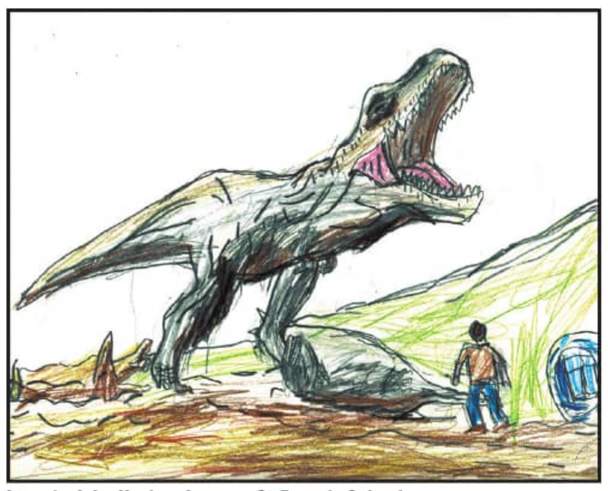
KIDZONE

Krishna, 6 years, Vibhudhipura Govt School



Ignacio John Xavier, 4 years, St Francis School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No. 74/2, Sanjana Plaza, 4th & 5th Floor, Elephant Rock Road, Jayanagar 3rd block, Bengaluru-560 011; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

QUOTE UNCODE

I believe every human has a finite number of heartbeats. I don't intend to waste any of mine. – Neil Armstrong

RIDDLER

Tread Water, Fair Trade and Rated R

FAST FIVE

P	L	A	S	H
A	L	P	H	A
N	A	S	A	L
I	M	I	D	E
C	A	S	E	D

BULL'S EYE

COMPOSE, coop, cope, copse, mope, peso, poem, pose, scoop, scope

STRIKE OUT

P	O	S	S	I	B	L	E		E	W	E	R		
E		A		D		O	R	I	B	I		I		
N	E	B	U	L	O	S	E		B	L	I	P		
A		E		E		H	E	L		L		P		
L	Y	R	E		D	R	E	A	D	F	U	L		
	E		S		S		B		U	S	E			
L	I	N	K	S		V	I	L	L	A				
A	L	T		I		A		T		G				
P	S	A	L	M	I	S	T		A	B	E	D		
P		L	A	P		S		K		O		E		
E	P	I	C		P	E	A	C	E	F	U	L		
A		A		E	G	I	S		A		F		A	
L	A	N	D		P	S	A	L	M	O	D	Y		

QUICK

MENSA PUZZLE

8. In each square, multiply the top and bottom numbers then subtract the left and right hand numbers, the result is 40 each time.

SOLVE IN 1M

5.09 = x + 0.6
x = 5.09 – 0.6
x = 4.49

SUDOKU

6	4	7	2	5	9	1	3	8
3	5	9	6	8	1	2	4	7
8	2	1	3	4	7	9	5	6
7	3	4	1	2	8	6	9	5
5	8	2	9	6	3	4	7	1
9	1	6	5	7	4	3	8	2
2	6	3	8	9	5	7	1	4
4	9	5	7	1	6	8	2	3
1	7	8	4	3	2	5	6	9

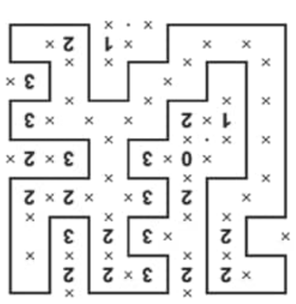
ALPHA TRIANGLE

S, Se, Sen, Pens, Pends, Spends, Suspend.

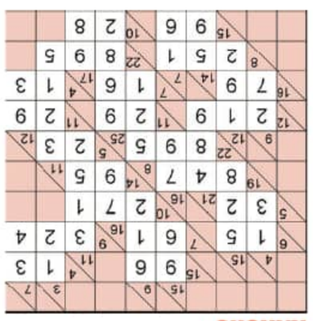
GO FIGURE

Easy
9 + 4 + 8 + 6 = 27
Medium
9 + 5 – 7 + 2 = 9
Hard
6 x 7 / 6 + 5 = 12

LOOP



KAKURO



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